

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MEMORANDUM

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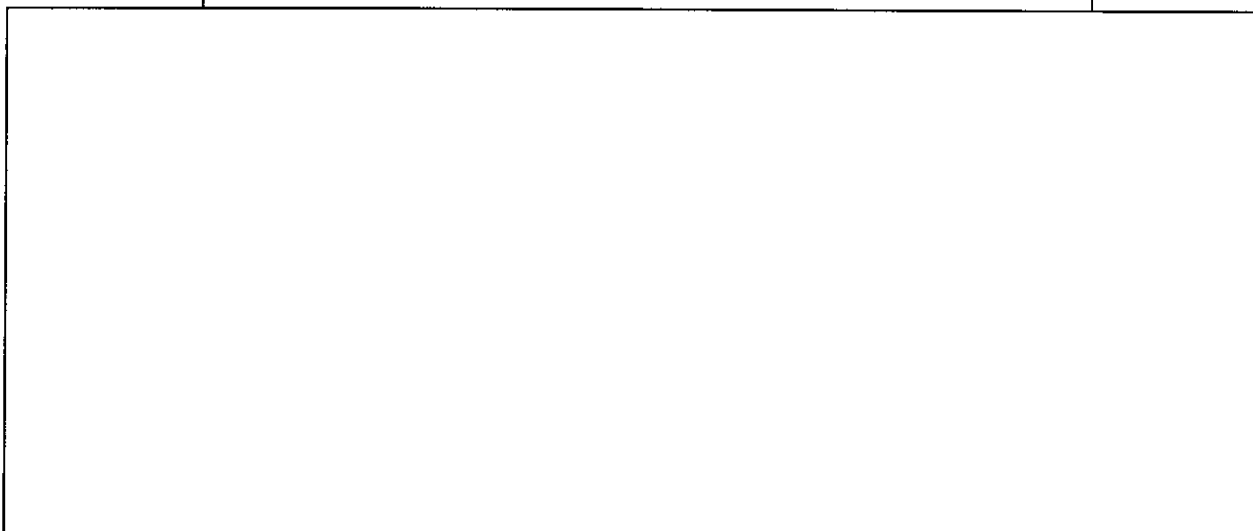
August 22, 1995

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TO: EXEC - Amb. Albright *YR-1000 REF*  
THRU: EXEC - Amb. Gnehm  
FROM: POL - William B. Wood, Acting *WBN*  
SUBJECT: August 23 Security Council - Rwandan Refugees

The text of the draft Presidential Statement on Zaire's forced repatriation of refugees was agreed ad ref yesterday. We are unaware of any substantive objections by the Chinese, who requested the one-day delay.

The President will likely brief the Council also on his discussions with the Zairian Charge. After that meeting, the Zaire Charge met with us.



B1

There may be an attempt to incorporate some of the Zaire comments in the text. We should oppose such action, noting that the text does recognize their prior good efforts, but that we need to be clear about the unacceptability of forcible repatriation.

Attachments:

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

- o Talking points
- o Current text of draft statement
- o Informal translation of Zairian position paper

Drafted: donlon; cleared: tcountryman Wang# 28617  
Distribution: EXEC(6), Pol(3), Chron, Ref, Legal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN

DATE/CASE ID: 11 OCT 2002 200000294

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(5), 1.6(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 22 AUG 2020

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General

RELEASED IN FULL

- o Mrs. Ogata is going to the region to discuss operational issues relating to the refugees. The Council should not try to legislate her discussions from New York by prescribing specific steps to be taken by either side for the return of refugees.
- o This statement focuses on the forced repatriation of refugees which, in addition to its tragic humanitarian cost, threatens to destabilize the region. Our job is to address that problem and let Mrs. Ogata address the larger question of the refugees.

Kinshasa Agreement

- o The statement already notes the Rwandan commitment to take the steps necessary for the safe return of refugees as soon as possible. This shows our expectation that Rwanda will fulfill its commitment, which is at the heart of the Kinshasa Agreement. Adding more would blunt the focus of the statement.
- o (If pressed) We could mention the Kinshasa Tripartite Agreement, the Nairobi Summit, and the Bujumbura Plan of Action

Destabilizing Actions

(This refers to Zaire's fear that Rwanda will attack refugee camps in Zaire, using weapons provided since the arms embargo was lifted last week, at U.S. insistence.)

- o It would be odd if, at a time when Zaire is committing acts which we all agree are destabilizing, we included in a presidential statement a reference to potentially destabilizing acts that neither Rwanda nor Burundi have taken.
- o We need to keep our focus on the current source of tension: Zaire's policy of forced repatriation.
- o (If pressed) We could accept, perhaps at the end of the third paragraph, a sentence calling on all regional states to avoid any further unilateral actions which might be destabilizing.

SYG Report on Schedule for Refugee Returns

- o No schedule has been agreed among all regional states. Mrs. Ogata is going there to help them address the issue of refugee returns. It should not be included in this statement.

Assistance

- o Reflecting the importance that the international community gives to the contribution to stability that Zaire's acceptance of the refugees represents, Zaire is already receiving substantial assistance to help it meet the costs of the refugees.
- o But, if Zaire continues its policy of forced repatriation -- in effect reversing its contribution to regional stability -- it is unlikely to receive further assistance.

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22 August 1995

1:20pm

Draft Presidential Statement

The Security Council views with deep concern the forcible repatriation of Rwandan and Burundian refugees by the Government of Zaire and the increasingly tense situation in the region.

The Security Council takes note of the recent letter from the Government of Zaire to the Secretary-General (S/1995/722) and the Secretary-General's reply (S/1995/723) in which he urges the Government of Zaire to continue to provide assistance to Rwandan and Burundian refugees.

The Security Council considers that the nations which have accepted refugees from Rwanda and Burundi have made an important contribution to peace and stability in the region. Their contribution is of special importance in view of the genocide which took place in Rwanda and the possibility of further bloodshed in Burundi. The Council also notes the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to take the necessary steps to make possible the safe return of its nationals as soon as possible.

The Security Council calls on the Government of Zaire to honour its obligations to the refugees including those under the International Convention on Refugees of 1951 and to reconsider and halt its declared policy of the forcible repatriation of refugees to Rwanda.

The Security Council supports the decision by the Secretary-General to send the High Commissioner for Refugees to the region to engage in urgent discussions with the Government of Zaire with a view to resolving the situation. It encourages all governments in the region to cooperate with the High Commissioner for Refugees to achieve the voluntary and orderly repatriation of refugees.